

February 7, 2017

Proposed Bill 426

Committee on Insurance and Real Estate.

An Act Protecting Patients from Inappropriate Billing Practices

I write in strong support of Proposed Bill 426

As our hospital systems have grown dramatically, so has the contracting and subcontracting of the hospital system's work forces. The public often has no idea that the ER operation is probably under contract; the environmental support staff – a contract; billing – a contracted work force and even patient record retrieval can be contracted to private firm- to name just a few examples.

What the patient knows is that his or her insurance policy supports access to specific hospitals. When they suddenly receive bills because the particular provider he or she saw is a contract worker and not part of the staff, it rightfully strikes that patient as unfair. It is.

Proposed Senate Bill 426 – An Act Protecting Patients from Inappropriate Billing Practices addresses surprise billing. I urge support.

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